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From Books to Binary: Supporting the Agricultural Mission in the 21st Century

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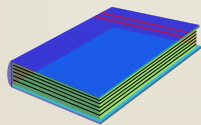
From Books to Binary

Supporting the Agricultural Mission
in the 21st Century



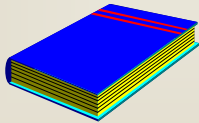
June 18, 1998

The Agriculture Library at the University of Kentucky ceased to exist and the Agricultural Information Center was born. This service center was the culmination of nearly a decade of planning.



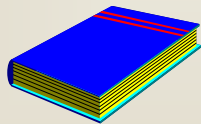
Agricultural Information Center

- Hybrid of corporate and academic information enterprises
- Focus on information services and satisfying the client
- Designed to meet changing user needs



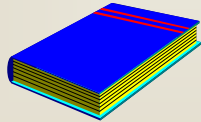
Traditional Facilities

- Reference/Reading Room
- Information Desk
- Individual Carrels
- PCs for Information Use



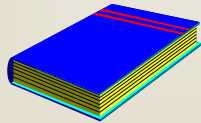
Traditional Library Services

- Reference Service
- Access to Electronic Databases
- Document Access and Delivery
- Reserve Book Option
- Book Check In/Out
- Information Literacy



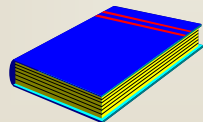
Teaching Support

- Interactive training room
- General microcomputing facilities
- Group study rooms wired for video delivery
- Ample network connections (either hardwire or wireless) for laptop use



Research/Extension Support

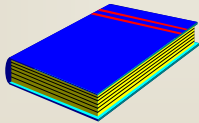
- On Site Training
- Information Profiles
- Information Pointers
- Aggressive/Proactive Training
- Desk Top Delivery of Resources
- User Input into Services



The Idea

1989--1993

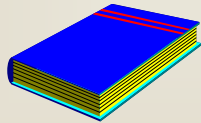
- Committee appointed
- Feedback from the College gathered
- Strategic Plan for Library Information Services submitted to the Dean



The Idea

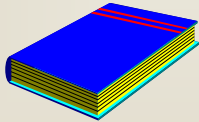
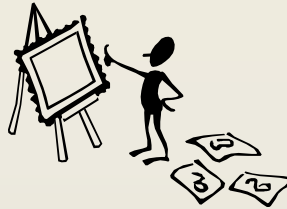
1994--1998

- Second Committee formed and reaffirms the strategic plan
- Strategic Plan drafted into a concept paper

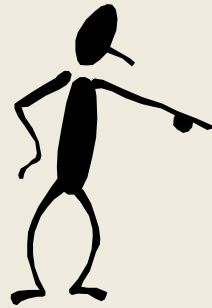


The Plan

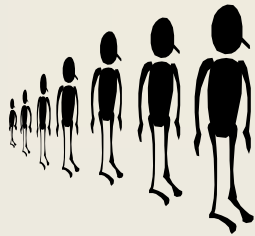
- Outlined functions
- Outlined staffing
- Outlined the services expected



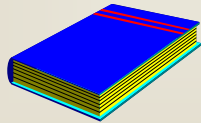
The Plan Included



→ User driven services

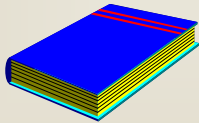


→ Better group space to foster collaboration and interaction



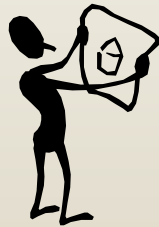
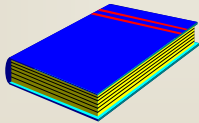
The Plan--1995

- Plan endorsed by all Department Chairs
- Plan circulated to Departments and feedback sought



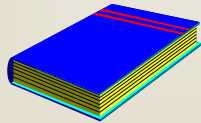
The Plan--1996

- Ideas from the concept paper were superimposed on the existing library space
- Space design begins
- Feedback sought from all groups



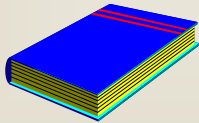
Feedback--Research and Extension

- Needed 24 hour access to materials
- Needed training to take advantage of the desk top services



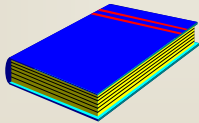
Feedback--Students

- Needed a place to get help with their information needs
- Needed a place to study
- Needed a place to access computers
- Needed a place to work together



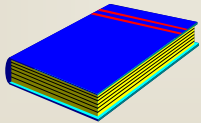
Awareness--1998

- Large window display
- Worked the faculty meeting circuit
- Put all documents on the Web site
- Unveiled a new website
- Plans sent to all 120 county offices
- One-on-one with faculty and students



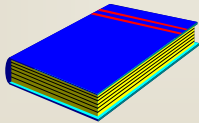
Concurrent Activities

- Working with the main library to integrate the book collection
- Staff re-engineering themselves for the new environment
- Looking for funding to do the project



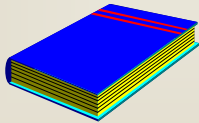
How Are We Doing?

- New PCs and a print system were put in
- Aggressive training of our undergraduate users accomplished
- New reading room constructed and a wireless network has been installed



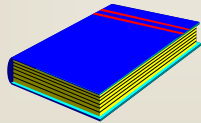
How Are We Doing?

- Staff retraining continues
- Construction continues
- Aggressive training for graduate and faculty being planned
- New online journals added daily as well as new networked services



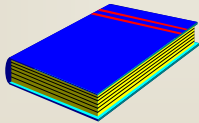
How Are We Doing?

- 24 hour access of materials accomplished
- Focus groups to develop training on the research level being organized
- Collaborative and group study space provided



Lessons Learned

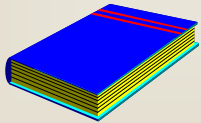
- Listen to your users
- Do not be too hasty in saying “We can’t do that”
- Be flexible in your planning because things change



Most Of All--Go With The Flow



→ Maintain your patience and your sense of humor and remember working together is the key to success



*University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture*

Agricultural Information Center

A Service Center of the
University of Kentucky
Libraries

